

Amberley

Borough of Whitehaven



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

AND REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

**BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN
HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE,
1959-60.**

Chairman Councillor J. Walsh.

Vice-Chairman Alderman W. Stephenson.

THE MAYOR (Councillor J. Boylan).

Members: Alderman J. Blamire and W. E. Knipe.
Councillors F. Baxter, W. J. Denvir,
G. Hanlon, and G. Q. McCartney.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. N. Dobson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. A. Beldon, C.R.S.I.

Additional Health Inspectors:

P. Eldon, C.R.S.I.

J. F. Lord, C.R.S.I. (Temporary appointment)

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

S. B. Williamson (Resigned 31/12/59)

Clerk: Miss I. Davidson.

Clerk-Typist: Miss G. Banks.

Tel:
Whitehaven 661.

*Health Department,
53, Duke Street,
Whitehaven.*

Mr. Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Colley and Gentlemen,

So far as statistics in the following report show, the health of the town is satisfactory. The infant mortality rate was not excessive in 1959, the total cancer death rate remains as usual lower than that for England and Wales, compared with most industrial areas we have a low mortality from bronchitis. Since there is no unusual mortality from other causes it may be wondered why the general death rate is yet again so noticeably higher than that for England and Wales.

Most of this excessive mortality is attributable to deaths occurring in institutional accommodation the rules for the allocation of such deaths taking little account of the fact that the person concerned may not be a resident of Whitehaven. This anomaly was pointed out by my predecessor some years ago, but the occurrence on this occasion of an apparently high death rate prompts reference to it once more.

The year was almost devoid of incident other than an inconvenient but fairly benign outbreak of influenza. That is not to say all is well for, as scrutiny of the Chief Public Health Inspector's report shows, there is no organised inspection of food premises in the town. This is disquieting, for regular visits of inspection have a salutary effect even where there is generally little or no cause for criticism. The task of the Health Department should surely be preventive in the first instance, while action as a result of complaint should be but a secondary function. Unfortunately, advertising for the necessary staff on the national salary scale has attracted no applicants for the post of additional public health inspector and, until such time as one may be appointed, the position as regards routine work is bound to remain unsatisfactory. Despite these difficulties the work of slum

clearance has made progress and, though far from complete, there are signs that the major part of a programme which has been a heavy commitment for many years in Whitehaven will be accomplished in the next year or two.

I am glad to have once again the opportunity of acknowledging the continued support of the Health Department staff and the helpful co-operation of all other Departments.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. DOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

General Statistics :

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	4,315
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-year, 1959)	...	...	...	26,250
Persons per acre	...	...	...	6.08
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	7,596
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£253 301
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£1,010

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

(a) Number of legitimate live births	532
Number of illegitimate live births	23

Total live births	555
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Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	21.1
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Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	20.3
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(b) Number of legitimate still births	...	12
Number of illegitimate still births	...	1

Total still births	13
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Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 22.9

DEATHS.

(a)	Infant Deaths	(deaths under 1 year)			
	Legitimate infants	14
	Illegitimate infants	—

Total Infant deaths	14
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Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	25.2
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Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.3
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Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.
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(b) Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	19.8
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(c) Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	12.6
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- (d) **Perinatal mortality rate** (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births) ... 35.2
- (e) **Maternal mortality** (including abortion) Nil.
- (f) **Deaths at all ages** ... 323
- Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 12.3
- Adjusted death rate** per 1,000 of population 14.0

The vital statistics are presented in a new form. Although this form is not obligatory, and some of the rates are inevitably based on figures too small to be of value, it is convenient to follow the practice now required of local health authorities. Comparisons are made easier, and the complication of quoting figures for males and females separately disappears.

The following table is given for comparison of certain vital statistics.

TABLE 1.
Comparative Statistics.

				Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
Whitehaven Borough	...	...	...	21.1	12.3	25.2
Cumberland (Administrative County)	...	...	...	17.8	11.9	21.1
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.5	11.6	22.0

The figures in Table 1, which are crude rates, show what has been established as an "average" pattern over the years, namely a birth rate considerably above the national rate and death and infant mortality rates slightly above national level.

Corrected birth rates are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2.
Birth Rates.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population :	
		Whitehaven	England & Wales
1955	... 511	20.2	15.0
1956	... 534	19.9	15.6
1957	... 563	20.8	16.1
1958	... 526	20.1	16.4
1959	... 555	20.3	16.5

Table 3 shows death rates over the past five years.

TABLE 3.
Death Rates.

Year	Number of Deaths		Birth Rate per 1,000 of population :	
			Whitehaven	England & Wales
1955	...	307	13.9	11.7
1956	...	314	14.0	11.7
1957	...	295	13.4	11.5
1958	...	306	13.8	11.7
1959	...	323	14.0	11.6

The increase in the general death rate is insignificant for reasons already given, and the distribution of causes of death but little changed from the preceding year. There were for example 146 deaths due to cardiovascular disease, or 45% of all deaths, compared with 144 the year before. Total cancer deaths were slightly increased. Road accidents killed five people, as in 1958. Tuberculosis caused five deaths, influenza being the only other fatal infective condition.

No deaths took place from maternal causes. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 0.3 deaths per 1,000 total live and still births.

Infant mortality rates are given in Table 4, and causes of death in Table 5.

TABLE 4.
Infant Death Rate.

Year	Number of Infant Deaths		Death rate per 1,000 live births :	
			Whitehaven	England & Wales
1955	...	15	29	25
1956	...	20	37	24
1957	...	15	28	23
1958	...	23	44	23
1959	...	14	25	22

Infant mortality, unusually high last year, returned to more normal proportions. It is in keeping with the perinatal mortality rate of 35.2 which approximates closely to the national figure of 34.2 for the year.

Reference to Table 5 shows that half the infant mortality occurred in the first week of life, and four of the total of 14 deaths were due to congenital malformations. In remarking once more that such deaths are, for practical purposes, unavoidable it may be noted that both deaths ascribed to bronchopneumonia also occurred in infants with congenital heart or lung disease. It can be said that altogether six infant deaths were inevitable.

TABLE 5.
Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death	Age in Weeks				Age in Months				Totals
	0—	1—	2—	3—	1—	3—	6—	9—	
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Bronchopneumonia	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	4
Asphyxia	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Under 1 month				Over 1 month					
Total deaths	11				3				14

Cancer Mortality.

There were 46 deaths from cancer, the primary sites of the disease being shown in Table 6, while in Table 7 are given death rates for the Borough and England and Wales.

TABLE 6.
Deaths from Cancer.

Location of Disease	Male	Female	Total
Stomach	5	1	6
Colon and Rectum ...	4	4	8
Pancreas	2		2
Lung and Bronchus ...	11	3	14
Breast	—	4	4
Uterus	—	2	2
Ovary	—	2	2
Prostate	2	—	2
Other Sites	3	3	6
	27	19	46

Total cancer mortality remains lower than the rate for England and Wales. Having recorded the one acceptable feature, the lung cancer position must again be reviewed. Lung cancer caused a quarter of all cancer deaths in Whitehaven in 1958; about one third in 1959. Lung cancer deaths in 1959, the highest ever in England and Wales; lung cancer deaths in 1959, the highest ever in Whitehaven. Mean age at death of Whitehaven lung cancer cases, 60.3 years; mean age at death of all other Whitehaven cancer cases, 68.2 years.

We are thus faced with increasing lung cancer on both a national and local scale, and the unpalatable fact that the commonest cancer causes the greatest loss of expectation of life.

The Governmental attitude to this problem is that it is a matter for the local authorities, health education, and the individual conscience. Surely this is a national disaster, to be tackled on a national scale. None of the authorities which have made even heroic efforts with health education have had success worth mentioning. Meanwhile the individual just doesn't believe it may happen to him, any more than a driver taking to the road expects to be involved in an accident. To keep the risks in perspective we might remember 14 people in Whitehaven died of lung cancer in 1959, 16 people contracted tuberculosis. None of the 16 tuberculosis cases have died, yet most people still dread "T.B." while having few qualms about lung cancer.

To recognise anomalies gives no answer to this most complex of problems. It is profoundly disturbing that the task of prevention should be left to the unorganised and meagre resources of the local authorities.

TABLE 7.
Cancer Death Rates.

Year	Number of Deaths		Annauul Death Rate per 1,000 of population :	
			Whitehaven	England & Wales
1955	...	49	1.94	2.06
1956	...	49	1.90	2.07
1957	...	39	1.50	2.09
1958	...	40	1.53	2.12
1959	...	46	1.75	2.14

TABLE 8.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959.
Registrar-General's Classification

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—
Measles ...	—	—
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	11	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	2
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	9
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	1	—
Diabetes ...	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	20
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	29	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	2	7
Other Heart Disease ...	20	21
Other Circulatory Disease ...	6	5
Influenza ...	9	1
Pneumonia ...	6	8
Bronchitis ...	7	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	7	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	3	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	22	34
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	4	1
All other Accidents ...	7	1
Suicide ...	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—
Total (all Causes) ...	176	147

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Staff.

Changes in staff are shown on page 1 of this report.

(b) Laboratory Facilities.

Use is made of the bacteriological facilities at Whitehaven Hospital under the direction of Dr. A. C. F. Ogilvie, and of the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Cumberland Infirmary directed by Dr. D. G. Davies. Analytical services are provided by Messrs. Ruddock and Sherratt, Public Analysts, Warrington.

(c) Local Health Authority Services.

Medical services provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act are the responsibility of the Cumberland County Council. Information about the provision of Home Nursing, Home Helps, Immunisation and other services is available at the office of the Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, Area Health Office, Flatt Walks, Whitehaven.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Type of Clinic	Location :		
	Flatt Walks	Mirehouse	Woodhouse
School Clinic	... Wed. 10-11 a.m.	Thur. 2-3 p.m.	Wed 9-10 a.m.
Child Welfare	... Tue. 2-4 p.m.	Thur. 2-4 p.m.	Wed. 2-4 p.m.
Ante-Natal	... Fri. 2-4 p.m.	Wed. 2-4 p.m.	Mon. 2-4 p.m.
Dental	... Daily 9 30 a.m.	—	—

Attendance at the consultant and other special clinics at Flatt Walks is by appointment only. Sessions are held as follows; paediatric, ophthalmic, ear nose and throat, orthopaedic, speech therapy, hearing assessment and training, and chiropody. Orthoptic treatment is given at Whitehaven Hospital.

The Occupation Centre, Flatt Walks, has 40 places for subnormal children.

(d) Hospital Services.

Facilities provided by the Regional Hospital Board include Whitehaven Hospital, Flatt Walks: 120 beds. General hospital services. General Practitioners have X-ray facilities directly available.

The first stage of the new West Cumberland Hospital at Hensingham was completed and brought into use in December, 1959. The accommodation at present includes 60 geriatric, 24 medical and 16 psychiatric beds.

Homewood Annexe has 41 beds for tuberculosis and diseases of the chest.

The Hollins, Hensingham: 31 beds Pre-convalescent surgical cases with a small number of gynaecological beds.

Galemire, Cleator Moor: From infectious diseases hospital with 24 beds, to chronic sick use.

The Chest Clinic serving the area is in St. Bridget's Lane, Egremont.

Part III hospital accommodation is available in Meadow View House, Whitehaven (31 beds) by joint user agreement with Cumberland County Council.

(e) National Assistance Acts.

A number of elderly people were visited during the year at the request of various agencies. None was entirely without assistance and for the most part it was a matter of ensuring that whatever could be done to help was being done. There were no cases requiring legal action.

A step forward in the care of the elderly was the formation during the year of the Whitehaven Old Peoples' Welfare Committee under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. R. Chapman. One of their first tasks was the provision of chiropody for the elderly and their scheme, supported in part by grants from the County Council, operated from the beginning of 1960. This service has been much appreciated.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

A report by the Chief Public Health Inspector on the work of the year has been submitted and will be found at the end of this report.

There were no major changes in sanitary matters affecting the district, but it is worthy of record that, during the year in which many authorities were desperately short of water owing to the September drought, it was never necessary to restrict water consumption in Whitehaven. Not unnaturally there was a fall in the level of Ennerdale Lake and the sampling results during this period, and the following rainy spell, fell short of the usual standard of excellence. The normal standard was regained before the end of the year.

In the preceding report reference was made to a welcome reduction in sulphuric acid mist emission in the Kells/Woodhouse area, which had at last become tolerable. A deterioration in the position was noted in November, 1958, and a somewhat uneasy equilibrium was then maintained till April 1959. From that time conditions were most unsatisfactory and fume once again affected Mirehouse and, on occasion, St. Bees. This dismal situation obtained till the turn of the year and only early in 1960 was a satisfactory standard regained. From January 1960 conditions have greatly improved and remained better than ever before.

Naturally people are quicker to remark a bad period than the absence of trouble, and dissatisfaction was widespread in 1959. One cannot readily explain a complexity of difficulties to the public, some of whom evidently felt that the problem was receiving insufficient attention.

Visits to the factory and consultations with the Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works showed, however, that the fume

problem was being investigated with vigour. Neither research nor expenditure have been spared in the effort to achieve a satisfactory solution and, at the time of writing this report, there seem to be good prospects of still further improvement to follow.

Housing.

The Borough Surveyor supplies the following details of houses built during the year or in course of construction :—

TABLE 9.

Housing Construction.

	Completed.	Under Construction
(a) Corporation Houses.		
Type :		
3 Bedroom (Valley 17) ...	54	30
2 Bedroom (Valley 17) ...	44	4
Old Persons' Bungalows,		
2 Bedroom (Bransty) ...	—	12
Flats		
2 Bedroom (George St.) ...	30	—
1 Bedroom (George St.) ...	—	8
	<hr/>	
Total :	128	54
	<hr/>	
(b) Private Houses ...	27	69

Section D.
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications, other than those of tuberculosis, are shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10.
Infectious Disease Notifications.

Disease	No. of cases notified		Admitted to Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	...	15	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	50	—	—
Measles	...	229	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	17	—	—
Erysipelas	...	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	...	1	1	—
Puerperal pyrexia	...	1	1	—

For the third year in succession there were no serious outbreaks of notifiable infectious disease. Apart from measles there was indeed very little though, of the non-notifiable conditions, influenza was troublesome.

In the third week of January Influenza B reached the district having spread, apparently, from Cleator Moor. Schoolchildren were the first and most numerous victims, a feature being the very rapid onset with headache, weakness and fainting. Vomiting affected as many as half of the pupils concerned and, while checks showed that most school absences totalled 16-42% at any one time, the figure at one school reached 75%.

Adults of working age were less susceptible and most industrial absences from work were 10-15% over the seasonal normal. Unhappily the elderly were especially vulnerable. Thirty three of the 147 residents of Meadow View House were affected of whom seven died, while influenza was a contributory cause of death in another. Fortunately none of the patients on the hospital side was affected. In Whitehaven generally there were two other influenza deaths, both in elderly people. The cause of the outbreak was confirmed by serological tests.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications in 1959 were received as follows:—

TABLE 11.
Tuberculosis Notification.

	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Total
Male ...	12	—	12
Female ...	4	—	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	16	—	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Whitehaven has had an irregular but unfailing crop of non-respiratory tuberculosis every year since records were first kept. The gradual eradication of bovine tuberculosis in the County has been followed by a decline in milk-borne infection, and it is pleasing to be able to draw attention to 1959 as the first year in which no non-respiratory tuberculosis was notified. The virtual elimination of this type of infection seems to be in sight, no trivial benefit when it is remembered that 58 cases occurred in the last ten years alone.

The incidence of respiratory cases in main age divisions is shown in Table 12.

TABLE 12.
Age incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Age in years	0—	15—	35—	55—	Total
Male ...	—	3	4	5	12
Female ...	—	3	—	1	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	—	6	4	6	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

A further improvement took place also in regard to pulmonary tuberculosis. Notifications of lung infection were the lowest ever and, as Table 13 shows, the new case rate compared not unfavourably with that for England and Wales. Some time must elapse however before we can be confident that this means a permanent decline in the occurrence of new infections. Indiscriminate Mass X-ray can be depended upon less and less to detect a substantial proportion of the new cases. It tends to tread over the same ground repeatedly,

though for the present the discovery rate probably justifies continued public surveys in Whitehaven. Case finding depends increasingly on tracing contacts of cases, a task undertaken with extreme thoroughness by the Chest Physicians.

Their efforts are often nullified unfortunately by refusals to be examined or X-rayed and, short of compulsory powers, this limitation has to be accepted. No matter how good the Chest Service it cannot be expected to free Whitehaven of tuberculosis in the near future. All the more reason then to see that our children are protected against infection, and take the opportunity of B.C.G. vaccination offered to every child in its secondary school life. There is no single solution to the conquest of tuberculosis and every tried and useful measure must be exploited to the full. If the community is not willing to join the battle it can never be completely won.

A contribution not to be ignored is the effort of the Council's House Management Committee to rehouse suitable cases of tuberculosis which have been closely scrutinised and recommended by the Chest Physicians and Medical Officer of Health. Four such cases were re-housed during the year, a most welcome allocation from the number of houses available.

TABLE 13.
Tuberculosis Incidence.

			Whitehaven (Pop'n 26,250)		England & Wales (Pop'n 45,504,000)	
			New Cases	Case Rate per 100,000	New Cases	Case Rate per 100,000
Respiratory	...	16	60	...	24,499	54
Non-Respiratory		—	—	...	3,280	7

The year's figures are a reminder that tuberculosis is still accounting for deaths in some cases of long-standing.

Of the five deaths shown in Table 14 only two were of persons sixty years of age or older, but notification preceded death by periods ranging from five to twenty-eight years.

TABLE 14.
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Rates per million).

Year	Respiratory Tuberculosis			All forms of Tuberculosis		
	Whitehaven		England & Wales	Whitehaven		England & Wales
	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate
1955	2	80	130	2	80	150
1956	2	78	110	2	78	120
1957	2	77	95	3	110	110
1958	2	76	89	2	76	100
1959	5	190	77	5	190	85

Mass X-Ray.

The number of cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis discovered by Mass X-ray in Whitehaven since the service began is shown in Table 15.

TABLE 15.
Mass X-Ray Statistics.

Year	Number X-rayed	New active case discovered by X-ray	Notifications during year
1952	3,513	11	23
1953	3,352	13	44
1954	3,396	10	28
1955	3,961	18	37
1956	3,974	10	41
1957	2,900	2	28
1958	1,500	1	17
1959	2,785	3	16
Total	25,181	68	234

The decline in attendance recorded in 1958 was due principally to the Mass X-ray Unit visiting the district only once instead of the customary twice. In 1959 the usual service operated and the attendance figures recovered somewhat, the three cases discovered representing a case-finding rate of 1.1 per 1,000 examinations. This is below the national average of about 1.9, and underlines what has already been said about the reduced value of Mass X-ray general public surveys. It is known that more selective approaches to X-ray groups more "at risk" in the district are under consideration, and the results will be awaited with great interest.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The year's work is summarised in the addition to the table given below.

TABLE 16.
B.C.G. Vaccination.

Year	No. of children eligible for test	No. & %age of parents consenting	No. tested	No. & %age Mantoux positive	No. Mantoux negative	No. given B.C.G.
1955 ...	454	371 (82%)	362	124 (34%)	238	231
1956 ...	434	324 (75%)	315	149 (47%)	166	160
1957 ...	446	332 (75%)	325	111 (34%)	214	212
1958 ...	547	409 (75%)	382	123 (34%)	253	251
1959 ...	433	307 (71%)	296	88 (30%)	208	208

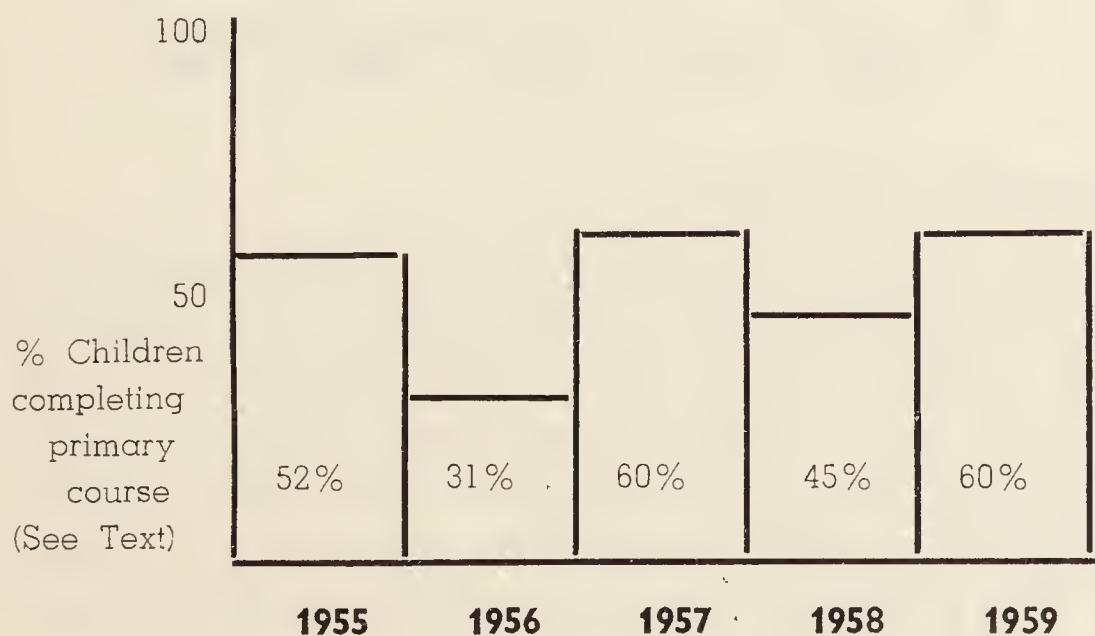
The number of children "Mantoux positive" tells us how many children have been, at some time or other, exposed to tuberculous infection. The percentage in Whitehaven is getting smaller from year to year, but is not far short of twice the national figure of 17% for schoolchildren of corresponding age. This finding emphasizes the long-known fact that children are more exposed to tuberculosis in West Cumberland than the majority of the country's schoolchildren, and makes it even more necessary to protect the vulnerable "Mantoux negative" group by B.C.G. vaccination.

All the 208 susceptible children were in fact immunised, a good record for the School Health Service. But what of the 126 children whose parents didn't give consent for the Mantoux skin test? This group includes up to 90 susceptible children whose chance of being immunised against tuberculosis has been thrown away. It is disappointing to find that more and more parents don't bother about it.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The figure shows the numbers of children under five who completed a primary course of immunisation during the year, as a percentage of the births in the previous year. Provided the annual number of births does not fluctuate greatly the result is a useful guide to the proportion of infants being immunised each year. 1959 saw a recovery to an immunisation level more usually associated with Whitehaven though much has to be done to reach the figure of 87% achieved in 1953. Though Whitehaven's record in 1959 was at least as good as the England and Wales average of 56.3%, renewed outbreaks of diphtheria in recent years have shown that local epidemics can spring up with disconcerting suddenness in our half-protected community. Diphtheria notifications for the whole country declined steadily in the post-war years to their lowest level in 1957. Since then they have risen again due to some alarming outbreaks.

There is some danger however in relying on immunisation of more infants to check this tendency. The vast majority of cases nowadays are occurring in schoolchildren, including many who were immunised as babies. The remedy is for parents to see that their children have a booster injection against diphtheria, at their doctor's or the Welfare Centre, before starting school.

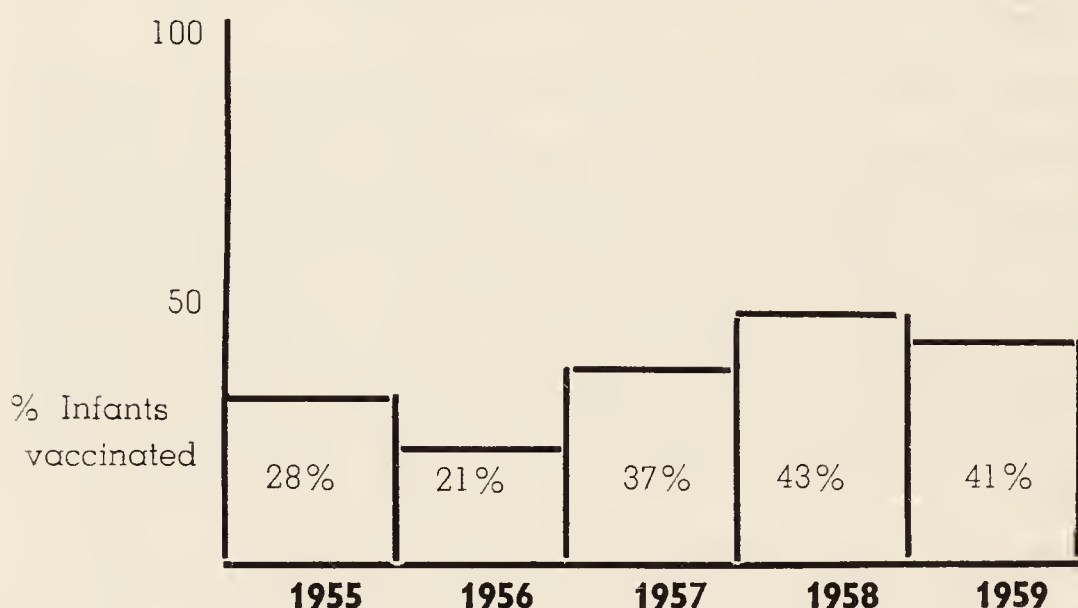


Pertussis Immunisation.

Whooping Cough immunisation was made available at County Council Child Welfare Centres in 1957 and was not fully established even in 1958. By 1959 however the proportion of the year's births immunised by general practitioners and the County Council's medical officers had reached 70%, a great improvement over the previous year.

Smallpox Vaccination.

Response to the offer of vaccination varies widely throughout the country, from under 3% in one town to over 79% in another. Overall the level is some 45%, a figure which could quite easily be surpassed in Whitehaven, and ought to be in a town with foreign-going shipping. Fortunately 1959 was virtually free of smallpox, there occurring only one case in the whole country and this, as it happens, at a port.



Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

It is not possible to say what percentage of the 1959 births have been immunised against poliomyelitis, for at least half of them would be done in 1960. Of the babies born in 1958 however, 57 had a primary course of two injections in that year, 250 had done so by the end of 1959, while a further 57 had received a full course of three injections by the same time. This totals 364 of the 526 live births, or 69% immunised.

A considerable amount of work was carried out in age groups other than infants, and this is summarised in Table 17.

TABLE 17.
Poliomyelitis Immunisation, 1959.

Age Group	Primary Course	Booster Doses
1958	250	57
1953 - 57	601	1,538
1943 - 52	654	3,334
1933 - 42	1,354	197
Total :	2,859	5,626

**REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR**

Public Health Department,
53, Duke Street,
WHITEHAVEN.

To the Medical Officer of Health,
WHITEHAVEN.

Sir,

I wish to submit my ninth Annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

The arrangement of the report follows that of last year and no new subjects have been introduced.

Housing continued to be the item demanding the greatest amount of attention and steady progress has been made towards the reduction of slum dwellings and the rehousing of the occupiers. Four areas of obsolete and unfit dwellings were inspected and prepared ready for representation as Clearance Areas by the end of the year and these, it is hoped, will be vacated within twelve months. Redevelopment should follow without delay. Re-housing of persons from unfit dwellings continued satisfactorily during the year.

Section A.

HOUSING.

NEW BUILDINGS:—One hundred and twenty-eight dwellings were completed by the Corporation during the year and fifty four were under construction on 31.12.59.

DISPLACEMENTS.—Fifty-three families were displaced from unfit dwellings during the year and all were rehoused in Corporation houses.

PROCEDURE:—No Clearance Areas were confirmed during the year but four areas were prepared for action under Sec. 42 and these should be completed during the coming year.

Thirty-two unfit dwellinghouses were dealt with under Housing Act 1957 Sec. 16 and a further 9 were the subject of voluntary agreements with the owners.

RESTORATIONS:—No unfit dwellings previously closed on grounds of unfitness were rendered fit during the year and no satisfactory offers of works were received. In this regard there are very few dwellinghouses which lend themselves to this treatment.

REPAIRS:—Repairs to dwellinghouses consisted principally of minor matters to prolong the useful life of substandard houses and it was not found necessary to take action under Section 9 of the Housing Act.

IMPROVEMENTS:—The improvement of houses, especially with owner-occupiers, has proved increasingly popular since the introduction of the simplified standard grant during the year. The majority of Improvements to small dwellings can be embraced by one or more of the five standard amenities and the shorter term of the conditions together with a more exact knowledge of the amount of the grant are attractive features of this form of inducement to improve dwellings.

Sixteen applications for grants were received during the year of which eleven were for standard grants. Eight improvement cases were completed during the year.

RE-DEVELOPMENT:—In the George Street area further demolition of unfit dwellings took place and the erection of three storeyed blocks of flats made steady progress. It is now evident that this type of dwelling, which is novel to the town and against which some prejudice existed, is very popular. The central position convenient to the centre of the town, the commanding views and the lack of gardening duties no doubt are strong factors in the appeal.

OVERCROWDING:—Three cases of overcrowding were noted throughout the year. While many homes are still shared and young married persons especially are without separate homes of their own few cases of real overcrowding as defined by the Housing Act exist.

RENT ACT 1957:—This act continues to arouse little interest in the district. Few landlords seek to avail themselves of the benefits that the act offers and the reason appears to lie in the tenants' demand for repairs that would follow a rent increase. There were only five applications for certificates of disrepair during the year and only one Certificate was issued, the four other cases being settled after intervention by the local authority.

CARAVANS:—The problem of caravans has aroused considerable interest nationally since last year's report. The survey called for by the government has shown the extent and complex nature of the problem especially for planning and local authorities. The fundamental issue of public health must always be the primary consideration in this matter, all other issues being secondary.

In this district siting of individual vans is discouraged. The Corporation caravan sites at Woodhouse continue to serve a useful purpose and persons wishing to place their vans on site can rent a plot for a few shillings per week. Water supply points and sanitary accommodation are available. Forty vans of modern type were in position by the end of the year.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	48
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	47
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	29
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	105
Drainage work	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	0
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	17
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	94
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	173
Food Preparers	...	...	...	...	...	73
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	252
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	29
Infectious Disease Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	61
Infectious Disease Fumigations	...	...	...	...	...	4
Interviews with Owners/Occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	462
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	24
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	12
Milk Shops and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	43
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	0
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	6
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	144
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rent Act 1957	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	106
Repairs Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	72
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	26
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	698
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous Premises	3
Vessels in Harbour	98
Water Samples	17
Miscellaneous	155

Total	2,871
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REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Accumulations removed	6
Chimney Stack/Flues repaired	5
Drains cleared	...	...	...	32
Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	...	19
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	7
Eavesgutters repaired	...	...	...	19
External walls repaired	...	...	...	12
Floors repaired	...	...	...	9
Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	9
Gullies repaired/renewed	...	...	...	7
Houses Disinfested	...	...	...	3
Houses Fumigated	...	...	...	15
Rain water Pipes renewed	...	...	...	19
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	9
Sinks provided	...	...	...	7
W.C. pans fixed	...	...	...	9
Wall and Ceiling plaster renewed	...	...	...	15
Windows repaired/renewed	...	...	...	6
Total				208

Section B.

FOOD.

I. Food premises in the district number 237.

II(a) Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act.

Ice Cream	...	...	...	74
Potted, pickled, preserved food (meat products, fish, cakes, etc.)	...	...	...	18
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	12

II(b) Dairies and Milk Supply.

There are eighteen distributors of milk in the Borough and eight premises were in use as dairies. Two persons sold milk from shops dealing in other food and sterilized milk was sold by one vendor.

Premises were inspected regularly and the standard generally was satisfactory. Most distributors receive milk already bottled by a large undertaking situated outside the Borough which handles large quantities of pasteurised and T.T. milk.

No change can be reported in the delivery methods or in the types of milk sold. I believe that a strong case can be made out for the use of expendable containers instead of bottles but no progress has been made in this direction, distributors being hesitant to embark upon this method. While no ungraded milk is sold in the district and the milk supply is safer than ever before, the pasteurisation of Tuberculin Tested milk should be compulsory. It seems illogical that a lower standard exists to-day for milk than for ice cream and there is no evidence to show that because a milk supply is designated "Tuberculin Tested" it is free from other sources of infection.

Sampling carried out during the year gave the following results:—

Tuberculin Tested—4 Satisfactory, 1 Unsatisfactory.

Pasteurised—6 Satisfactory, nil Unsatisfactory.

III. Food shops and other food premises were inspected as frequently as possible but no organised general inspection was practicable. Generally the standards of hygiene have been maintained and while much remains to be done in this branch of the work, both in regard to premises and methods, it is encouraging to note that real progress has been made not least by the food traders themselves. Three hundred and twenty-seven visits were paid to premises during the year.

IV. Education Activity.

No organised public displays or lectures have been given during the year but whenever possible advice has been given to food handlers and every opportunity taken to stress the business value of food hygiene.

V. Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs.

These fall under two distinct groups (a) meat and offals from the two slaughterhouses in the area and (b) miscellaneous foodstuffs condemned as unfit from shops and stores. All slaughterhouse condemned material is collected by a reputable firm and treated for industrial purposes. This collection takes place several times weekly and so far as is known is a satisfactory method of salvage. Foods from other sources are collected by the local authority and destroyed by deep burying in the Corporation's refuse tip.

VI. No large stocks of food were inspected specially during the year.

VII. Ice cream Heat Treatment Regulations 1947-52.

Seventy-six premises are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream and the majority are foodshops already handling other items of food. Provided that premises and standards of hygiene are satisfactory and there is no risk of contamination this vending of ice cream from other premises is acceptable. There are six premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream; four manufacturers using a hot mix and two a cold mix.

Inspections of manufacturers' premises and plant have been made frequently and every effort made to maintain the high standard already reached. Manufacturers were most anxious to co-operate and it must be said that if all food traders were as zealous as ice cream manufacturers in the matter of food hygiene few problems would exist in this field.

Sampling gave the following results: ---

Grade I.	14	}	Satisfactory.
Grade II.	4		
Grade III.	1	}	Unsatisfactory.
Grade IV.	1		

The unsatisfactory samples attained Grade I on repeat sampling.

VIII. Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

While no systematic shop to shop inspection has been possible owing to the great amount of time this would involve with the present staffing position, every opportunity has been taken to encourage the occupiers of food premises to meet their obligations under the Regulations. No flagrant breaches have been observed and no prosecutions necessary. These regulations are a useful addition to food legislation and together with the model byelaws on handling and wrapping have constituted a great advance in food hygiene.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

There are two private slaughterhouses in the district which are licensed annually by the local authority. One of these serves the trade needs of the occupier only and has a very high standard of hygiene; the other is a large establishment run on public slaughterhouse practice where local butchers may slaughter if they desire, although the greater portion of the trade consists of wholesale meat sales much of the finished products being exported to distant towns. These large premises have had various improvements, mostly in the form of additional lairage accommodation, carried out during the year. The standards maintained were satisfactory.

All animals slaughtered in these establishments were inspected, no carcase or offal being released otherwise and one full time meat inspector is engaged on this task. Hours of work are at times difficult.

The marked reduction in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis continued and the small number of cases found were in animals sent for slaughter under the eradication scheme.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and the condemnations during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows			Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,774	2,604	153	18,596	5,808	—		
Number inspected	2,774	2,604	153	18,596	5,808	—		
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...								
Whole carcasses condemned	3	12	12	22	5	—		
Carcasses of which some part organ was condemned	532	—	48	27	—			
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tubercul- osis and Cysticerci. ...	10.17	7.84	0.37	0.55	—			
Tuberculosis only.								
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	1	—		
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	79	—	—	—	—	—		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.48	—	—	0.017	—			
Cysticercosis								
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—		

Total Weight of Meat Condemned, 12 tons, 2 cwt., 1 lb.

Other Articles of Food Surrendered.

Tinned Meats	2,390 lbs.
Tinned Fruits	521 "
Tinned Vegetables	261 "
Tinned Milk	156 "
Tinned Fish	311 "
Bacon	344 "
Fish Cakes	7 "
Meat Pies	30 "
Poultry	99 "
Sausages	35 "
Total	4,154 "

WATER

The entire supply for the district is taken from Ennerdale Lake, the daily amount of treated water being approximately 5,505,000 gallons. Sampling is carried out regularly for bacterial and chemical analysis by this department. (See Appendix).

Section C.

MISCELLANEOUS

I. Factory Act 1937-59.

Inspection of factories was carried out during the year and the annexed tables are shown for information.

II. Rag Flock Act.

There are two premises licensed under this Act, one being a factory engaged in the processing of animal hair for filling materials, the other being a store for the material.

The factory is a modern establishment and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

III. Pet Animals Act.

Two pet shops hold annual licences for the sale of pets. The premises are visited from time to time and conditions were satisfactory.

IV. Offensive Trades.

Three premises are registered as Offensive Trades, a rag and bone dealer, a tripe and gut preparer and a fat melter. No nuisance arose during the year and conditions were satisfactory.

V. Rodent Control.

No major infestation took place in any premises during the year, all cases reported or discovered being very small infestations of mice or rats. Treatment was provided gratis in all cases involving dwellinghouses and a small charge made for business premises.

Routine baiting of sewers throughout the district was undertaken and the Corporation's refuse tip also received regular attention.

VI. Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.

No great change can be reported in this field of work and the problem of smoke abatement is confined to a very few industrial stacks and to dwellinghouses in the town.

Much improvement has already taken place in some of the establishments burning solid fuel and good results have been achieved but in two premises little can be done without a renewal of plant and it is hoped that this will take place in the near future.

No proceedings against occupiers were taken during the year. Domestic smoke is still to be blamed for much of the pollution that exists although it must be said that this continues to show an annual improvement due to dilution of houses and greater use of gas and electricity for heating and cooking purposes.

The emissions from a large chemical plant have shown no improvement during the year and negotiations have taken place from time to time with the management and the inspectors of the Alkali division. There is no doubt that the firm concerned is making every effort to reduce emissions which are likely to be either injurious or a nuisance to the inhabitants of the area.

VII. Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

This service is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department. All trade and household refuse is disposed of by tipping into a large disused quarry on the outskirts of the town.

VIII. Disinfections and Verminous Premises.

Five premises were treated during the year after infectious disease. The incidence of bed bug has dwindled of recent years and very few cases are now discovered. Three rooms were dealt with during the year and the infestations were very minor ones. Other household pests were dealt with from time to time and advice and materials were issued as necessary.

IX. Public Swimming Baths.

There is one establishment situated in the town which is owned and managed by the local authority. This bath has been in operation for upwards of fifty years and improvements have been carried out from time to time.

Water is taken from the mains, a chlorinated supply, and filtration is by pressure sand filters.

Continuous circulation gives a change period of 4 hours and visual colour testing for ph. value and free chlorine is carried out three times a day. Bacterial samples are taken occasionally, and have regularly satisfied the standards for swimming bath water recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

X. Observations.

Two matters, both concerned with the vitiation of air in dwellinghouses call for comment and I would bring to your notice the following points based on the inspection of many dwellinghouses in varying weather conditions.

The modern trend in dwellinghouses built since the war has been to provide a small kitchen/scullery or kitchenette fitted with sink and taps but without a cooking range. The choice of cooker is often left to the tenant and an electric or gas cooker is installed. No flue is built into the structure and none provided afterwards. With electric cookers the vapours are discharged direct to atmosphere and may be often undesirable, but with gas cookers the entire products of combustion discharge into the air of these small rooms. Although ventilation by windows and doors is possible it is seldom used during cold or inclement weather and the atmospheric conditions suffered by many housewives are quite deplorable.

The provision of a flue and suitable hooding should be a requirement of the building byelaws as indeed it is already for certain gas appliances. It seems illogical that cookers should be exempted from any suitable treatment.

The recent abolition of the provision of air vents to bedrooms is also a matter that should receive further thought and the provision of a suitable ventilator to living rooms where solid fuel or gas fires are used should be compulsory under the building byelaws.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. A. BELDON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX

WATER ANALYSIS.

Date	Before or after Chlorination	Number of Colonies on Nutrient Agar after 72 hours.		Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37°C. after 72 hours	Clostridium Welchii Test at 44°C. in 50 ml. after 48 hours	Remarks.
		at 37° C.	20/22° C.			
2-2-59	After	2 per ml.	4 per ml.	Neg. in 100 mls.	Negative	Of good and wholesome quality.
8-5-59	Before	0 per ml.	7 per ml.	35 in 100 mls. 25 in 100 mls. (Faecal Coli)	Negative	The water should be adequately chlorinated before it is used for dom- estic purposes.
21-5-59	After	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	0 per 100 mls. 0 per 100 mls.	Negative	The bacteriological condition of this water is satisfactory.
6-7-59	After	6 per ml.	800 approx.	0 per 100 mls. 0 per 100 mls.	Negative	The water is not sterile, but no organ- isms of faecal origin are present in 100 mls. and from this aspect it may be considered as satisfactory.
24-9-59	After	28 per ml.	76 per ml.	18+ per 100 mls. 0 per 100 mls.	Negative	The bacteriological condition of this sample is not wholly satisfactory; it is suggested that a second sample be taken after rain.
12-10-59	After	3 per ml.	110 per ml.	6 per 100 mls. 0 per 100 mls.	Present	The presence of coliform organisms is unsatisfactory. It is suggested that the dose of chlorine should be in- creased.
18-11-59	After	19 per ml.	43 per ml.	0 per 100 mls. 0 per 100 mls.	Present	The bacteriological condition of this water is satisfactory.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
Flag Lane,
WARRINGTON.
22nd December, 1959.

A. A. BELDON, Esq.,
Chief Public Health Inspector,
53, Duke Street,
WHITEHAVEN.

R E P O R T upon the chemical analysis of one sample of
water, received from you on 17th December,
1959.

SAMPLE MARKED:—Water from Ennerdale Lake. Taken
direct from Lake, before chlorination.
16-12-59.

Appearance	...	...	...	clear and colourless
Odour	...	...	...	nil.
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	6.48
				Parts per million.
Total solids	...	...	...	36
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia				0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia				0.28
Nitrogen as nitrites	...	...		Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	...		0.5
Chlorides, as Cl.	...	...		9
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate in 4 hours at 27°C.	...			0.06
Total hardness	...	...	...	9
Temporary Hardness			...	4
Permanent hardness			...	5
Alkalinity	...	...	...	4
Free chlorine	...	...	...	Nil
Poisonous metals	...	...	...	Nil
Potassium, as K	...	...	...	0.4

Opinion.

The water is very soft and it is potentially corrosive to all common metals. The chemical analysis indicates some small degree of contamination, and a final opinion cannot be given without a bacteriological examination. The small sample sent was broken in transit.

for RUDDOCK & SHERRATT.

Signed: J. GRAHAM SHERRATT.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH IN RESPECT OF
THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE
BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN
IN THE
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND**

**Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937.**

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	41	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	92	72	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	4	2	—	—
Total	107	105	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which Defects were found		
			Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separates for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.
OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111).

		Section 110.		Section 111.		
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices served	Prosecution
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing (Making apparel etc.)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and washing Household linen	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lace, lace curtains and nets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electro-plating	—	—	—	—	—	—
File making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brass and brass articles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fur pulling	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel cables and chains	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron and Steel Anchors and grapnels	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cart gear	—	—	—	—	—	—
Locks, latches and keys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	—	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.
OUTWORK.
(Sections 110 and 111).

		Section 110.			Section 111.	
Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecution
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Tents	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Racquet and tennis balls	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	—	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pea picking	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feather sorting	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding etc., of buttons, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Basket making	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chocolates and sweetmeats	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Textile weaving	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	—	—	—	—	—

**GEO. TODD & SON
PRINTERS
WHITEHAVEN**